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Dated: February 8, 2007

Signature:

*James J. Napoli*  
(James J. Napoli)

1FW 3761  
Docket No.: 29827/41950  
(PATENT—NO FEE)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Martin Beck et al.

Application No.: 10/576,049

Confirmation No.: 8929

Filed: April 14, 2006

Art Unit: 3761

For: HYDROGEL CAPABLE OF ABSORBING  
BLOOD AND/OR BODY FLUIDS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants hereby bring to the examiner's attention patent documents that may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Therefore, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, applicants enclose a completed Form PTO/SB/08 listing the possibly pertinent patents and a copy of each non-U.S. patent document.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months after the filing date of the above-identified application, and, to applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), this Information Disclosure Statement shall be considered by the Patent Office.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-2855. A duplicate copy of this Transmittal is enclosed herewith.

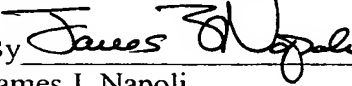
Application No.: 10/576,049

Docket No.: 29827/41950

Please note that WO 99/55767 corresponds to U.S.S.N. 09/674,263, a copy of which is enclosed. In addition, DE 199 09 653 corresponds to U.S. Publication No. 2003/207997 and U.S. Patent No. 6,620,889.

Dated: February 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08A/B (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	10/576,049-Conf. #8929
				Filing Date	April 14, 2006
				First Named Inventor	Martin Beck
				Art Unit	3761
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	29827/41950

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-5,847,031	12-08-1998	Klimmek et al.	
		US-2002-0128618-A1	09-12-2002	Frenz et al.	
		US-6,592,768	07-15-2003	Lepore et al.	
		US-6,620,889	09-16-2003	Mertens et al.	
		US-2003-0207997-A1	11-06-2003	Mertens et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP-3-44367	02-26-1991	Dainippon Ink & Chemicals et al.		√
		JP-6-345980	12-20-1994	Sanyo Chemical Ind Ltd.		√
		WO-95/15771	06-15-1995	Obf Ind Inc		
		WO-95/17455	06-29-1995	Stockhausen Chem Fab GmbH et al.		
		WO-95/19191	07-20-1995	Weyerhaeuser Co		
		EP-705643	04-10-1996	Sanyo Chemical Ind Ltd		√
		EP-759460	02-26-1997	Nippon Catalytic Chem Ind		
		CA-2188838	04-25-1998	Vallieres Lucien		
		WO-98/42193	10-01-1998	Basf Corp		
		WO-99/55767	11-04-1999	Basf Ag et al.		√
		WO-00/10496	03-02-2000	Frontier Kk et al.		√
		DE-19909653	09-07-2000	Stockhausen Chem Fab GmbH		√
		EP-1072630	01-31-2001	Nippon Catalytic Chem Ind		√
		JP-2001046423	02-20-2001	Shiseido Co Ltd		√

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. \* CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (\*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		U.S. Serial No. 09/674,263 entitled "Mechanically Stable Hydrogels".	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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